

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 206

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 660

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS PINT, JM

SUBJECT: WEAPONS DISCOVERED IN RAID ON PNP OFFICE

REF: KINGSTON 533

1. A COMBINED JDF/JCF RAID ON THE PNP OFFICE IN THE SOUTHERN ST ANDREW CONSTITUTUENCY OF MINISTER OF HOUSING ANTHONY SPAULDING FEBRUARY 10 UNCOVERED TWO HOME-MADE SHOTGUNS, A PISTOL, AMMUNITION, AND A NUMBER OF MOLOTITOV COCKTAILS. FIVE PNP SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING CONSTITUENCY SECRETARY, CHARLEY SMITH, WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN THE GUN COURT TODAY

2. FOLLOWING THE ARRESTS SPAULDING TOLD THE PRESS HE THOUGHT HIS PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FRAMED, THAT HE HAS REESTABLISHED RESIDENCE IN THE CONSTITUENCY AND IS TAKING PERSONAL CHARGE OF THE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE. ASSISTING HIM IN THE STAFFING OF THE OFFICE IS LUIS CASTRIOTA, PNP YOUTH LEADER AND CLOSE ALLY

3. SPAULDING NOTED THAT THE CONSTITUENCY'S "DEFENSE FORCE", WHICH HE SAID HAD ALWAYS EXISTED, WOULD NO LONGER BE CONFINED TO WATCHING BUT WOULD NOW CARRY OUT SEARCHES OF PREMISES IN THE AREA. ANYTHING UNEARTHED
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WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO HIM AND THEN TO THE POLICE.

THE MINISTER WENT ON TO ADD THAT IF THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT CAPITALIST OPPRESSION WAS TO RETURN TO THE COURTS TO DEFEND THE INNOCENT, "THIS LAST SUFFERER IS PREPARED TO DO TI BECAUSE SERVICE IS PARAMOUNT TO POSITION".

4. IN APPARENT EFFORT TO INTIMIDATE GUN COURT (WHERE THOSE ARRESTED ARE BING HELD FOR TRIAL WITHOUT BAIL) SPAULDING AND CASTRIOTA FIELDED SEVERAL HUNDRED CONSTITUENTS WHO HAVE BEEN MOUNTING "VIGIL" OUTSIDE COURT ALL DAY FEBRUARY 12.

5. COMMENT ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.THE RAID ON THE PNP OFFICE IN SPAULDING'S CONSTITUENCY IS THE FIRST PIECE OF SOLID EVIDENCE WE HAVE THAT THE CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED BY P M MANLEY(REFTEL) TO CRUSH THE POLITICAL GUNMEN IS IN FACT NON-PARTISAN

6. ONE RAID DOES NOT MAKE A POLICYSHIFT BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MANLEY MIGHT HAVE MADE A DECISION TO USE THE SECURITY FORCES TO CLIP THE MINISTER OF HOUSING'S WINGS. ATTORNEY SPAULDING'S COMMENT THAT HE IS PREPARED TO RETURN TO THE COURTS IF NEED BE TO DEFEND THE SUFFERERS, STRIKES THE EMBASSY AS BEING DEFENSE RHETORIC FROM A POLITICIAN UNDER FIRE FROM WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY GERARD

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